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Majority of BOE either silent or cowering in anonymity

It shouldn't surprise anyone that the majority of Hawaii Board of Education's members now seek to censure Laura Thielan about supporting local school boards (Editorial, March 24).

What you have proven, dear board, is there is only one among you with the courage to stand up and speak for an issue that many of us support. You have criticized her in public, yet you refuse to openly debate.

For years, beginning in 1989, the BOE has said that change was needed, and through School Community Based Management, "implementation will gradually shift a significant degree of decision making authority from the state and district levels to the school's community." BOE words, not mine. What happened? No accountability, no consequences. Now, as if by magic, the Department of Education states that it knows how to make the SCBM work.

Year after year, all we have heard is that the system is "broken" or "obsolete." However, when given the opportunity to support allowing the voters decide on a new system, BOE members either remain silent, cower under the blanket of anonymity or condemn something out of fear.

So, good friends, at election time, all we will be left with is whether or not we should make this group of bickering, noncommittals a larger group and/or grant them more unaccountable



authority. Some choice. Hail to the status quo!

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